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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXX, No. 61

Section 1

September 27, 1938

WORLD TRADE

Leaders of business, in addresses before a national conference on distribution at Boston, yesterday indorsed adjustment of trade barriers to promote freer exchange of goods and services. Thomas J. Watson, president of the International Chamber of Commerce, addressing the conference by short-wave radio from Bucharest, Rumania, termed reciprocal trade treaties negotiated by Secretary Hull "an international contribution that will help solve the world distribution problems through promoting trade and increasing the exchange of goods, services, ideas and ideals." (Associated Press.)

The Commerce Department said yesterday a better demand for raw materials caused a 17 percent increase in merchandise imports in the United States in August. While merchandise exports increased less than the usual seasonal amount, they still were larger than imports by \$65,-081,000. In the first eight months of the year exports exceeded imports by \$781,363,000, one of the largest favorable trade balances in recent years. August imports totaled \$165,540,000, compared with \$140,836,000 in July and \$245,668,000 in August 1937. Exports aggregated \$230,621,000 in August, compared with \$227,577,000 in July and \$277,031,000 in August of last year. (Associated Press.)

GREENBELT COOPERATIVES

Cooperative stores will be established in Greenbelt when half of the residents of the government-built community become shareholders in Greenbelt Consumer Service, says a report in the Washington Star. It is planned tentatively to sell shares at \$10 each to Greenbelt residents. All stores here are earning a profit, it was reported. The leaders agreed there should be a cooperative here and that an educational program reaching every citizen should be launched as soon as possible.

T. B. MANNY

Dr. Theodore Bergen Manny, head of the University of Maryland department of sociology since 1935, died yesterday. Dr. Manny served for eight years as an economic expert on farm population and rural life in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. He was senior agricultural economist when he left the department. (Washington Post.)

FSA FLOOD RELIEF

The Farm Security Administration is turning over its facilities in storm-stricken areas for the immediate relief and rehabilitation of farm families, it was announced yesterday by Philip H. Henderson, New York regional supervisor of rural rehabilitation. The assistance available from the FSA consists of both emergency and long-range rehabilitation, immediate provisions for food, clothing and shelter as well as replacement of buildings, livestock and equipment. (New York Times.)

Quarantine "California fruit growers and farmers spend millions
Inspection each year in controlling agricultural pests," says an
 editorial in the California Citrograph (October). "'We
are frequently asked', says the bureau of plant quarantine of the state
department of agriculture, 'what the plant quarantine inspection service
is expected to accomplish...While not everyone hears about new pests,
certainly those farmers who are growing the crops attacked learn of them
quickly, particularly when the infestation occurs on their own premises
and the farmers are required to spend their hard-earned money to combat
a pest in order to raise a marketable crop. It is unfortunate that in
the enforcement of plant quarantine laws the average person has very
little knowledge of the important part that insect and disease pests
play in the cost of crop production. Most of the agricultural pests
introduced into the United States could have been eradicated without
great expense if such eradication effort had been started shortly after
the establishment of the pest and before it was spread over a large area.
Practically all the serious insect and disease pests in this state were
introduced in the early days of agriculture. Through plant quarantine
inspection, we hope to keep out others.' During last July alone 931 lots
of plants or plant products infested or infected with pests were stopped
at the border stations..."

Farm Produce "Statements to the effect that railroads are losing
Terminals a large part of their former profitable fruit and vegetable
 business, made before the U. S. Chamber of Commerce con-
ference on transportation recently," says an editorial in Engineering
News-Record (September 22), "came as no surprise to informed railroad
men. Trucks are taking away the business because railroad equipment and
terminals are antiquated and inadequate, according to a study made by the
U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The railroads well know that their
terminals are out of date..."

Synthetic Four Department of Agriculture research workers con-
Plastic nected with the Forest Service have developed a method for
 converting sawdust, straw, wood waste, and waste sugar
cane stalks into valuable synthetic plastics, it is revealed in a patent
granted to Earl C. Sherrard, Edward Beglinger and John P. Hohf of Madison,
Wisconsin, says a report in the New York Times. Earnest Bateman, the
fourth man who aided in development of the process, is dead. The inventors
have found that by cooking any one of these waste materials with water and
aniline under steam pressure a material is obtained which can be molded
to form a hard, dense, black, shiny product like glass. It has high
strength and resistance to water and moisture. It is an excellent
electrical insulator. Buttons, door knobs and steering wheels for autos,
radio panels, etc., may be made from the plastic. The patent is assigned
to Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture. The inventors thus give
the government the right to use their invention without any payment of
royalties.

N.C. Bang's Disease

Recognizing Bang's disease as the greatest threat to North Carolina's dairy industry, the State Department of Agriculture will ask the 1939 General Assembly for \$80,000 to match Federal funds in a two-year eradication program, says a report in the Raleigh News & Observer (September 19). "The Bureau of Animal Industry has paid more than 90 percent of the total cost of the Bang's program, and a recent act of Congress makes it necessary for the State to match dollar for dollar for indemnities to owners of cattle condemned and slaughtered under the program," Commissioner of Agriculture W. Kerr Scott said. Dr. William Moore, chief of the department's veterinary division, said that "to appropriate sufficient funds to protect dairy farmers from this scourge of dairy animals will not be setting a precedent," citing that "approximately \$150,000 has been appropriated in the past to eliminate bovine tuberculosis and \$250,000 for elimination of the cattle tick, both programs resulting in making North Carolina safer for the livestock industry." Emphasizing the worth of continuing to cooperate with the Bureau of Animal Industry in controlling and eradicating Bang's disease, Dr. Moore said that elimination of animal tuberculosis and the cattle tick has saved farmers millions of dollars, adding that "unless these programs had been successfully conducted, North Carolina could not have had a dairy industry today."

BAI Trailer Laboratory

The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (October) contains an illustrated item on the Michigan Station's Bureau of Animal Industry trailer laboratory for the control of Bang's disease. "According to Dr. C. H. Hays, (Bureau of Animal Industry, Lansing, Michigan) "this arrangement for testing areas in the northern counties of the state of Michigan is proving most satisfactory. To date, since work under this plan was commenced in October, 1937, at which time he was using an improvised laboratory in a regularly equipped trailer, he has tested all of the herds in eleven different counties and is now engaged in the twelfth. Eight veterinarians and one helper make up the personnel handling the test from the trailer. The equipment provided would be sufficient for adding a technician to assist in increasing the volume of tests that could be added. There are many advantages in the use of the trailer laboratory under the conditions Doctor Hays is confronted with, he says. One of the greatest advantages is its mobility, making possible quicker and more accurate reports. Difficulties with hemolysed serum is a thing of the past. Of equal importance from an efficiency standpoint is the larger number of tests that can now be made."

Yellowstone Highways

More than \$1,200,000 will be spent to improve seventy miles of Yellowstone National Park roads in the next few years, Superintendent Edmund B. Rogers said recently. An appropriation by the last Congress made the road improvements possible. The Bureau of Public Roads handles road construction in the national parks. Largest individual project is the construction of a bridge across the Gardiner River near Mammoth Hot Springs. (Press.)

Veterinary Education "So many changes have taken place during the past 20 years in the character of veterinary practice.....that it seems impossible for any of the veterinary colleges now to offer a course of instruction that is adequate to prepare students satisfactorily for engaging in practice in its various branches immediately after their graduation," says an editorial in the North American Veterinarian (October). "Probably the greatest immediate need is provision for internship. The average graduate in veterinary medicine is not fully qualified to render satisfactory service in all branches of canine-feline practice, including the hospitalization of these patients, until he has served an internship of two years. It should require at least one year's internship to fit the newly graduated man for general practice. The young veterinarian who enters the service of the Bureau of Animal Industry must undergo a course of special training before he is qualified in that work, and no veterinarian is really qualified to engage in public health service until he has had at least one year's graduate training. It is obviously impossible for veterinary colleges to train students adequately in all of these fields within the scope of time that is allotted. Veterinary schools with university affiliation could give a four year course of instruction in general veterinary science and they might encourage an additional year of specialized training before their graduates engaged in highly specialized work."

Papaya for Breakfast Hawaiian interests announce that the way has been cleared for shipment of fresh tropic papayas to the mainland in commercial quantities. This means added competition for growers of grapefruit, oranges, and cantaloupes because papayas, chiefly a breakfast fruit, will lead a procession of other tropic fruits onto American tables. Chief obstacle to shipping tropic fruit has been the problem of eliminating tropic insect and disease pests before export and import, but methyl bromide fumigation before shipment licks that. Fresh papayas will be sold on the mainland at prices to compete with cantaloupes. (Business Week, September 24.)

Substitutes for Glass Under the more modern methods of poultry keeping, birds are often kept confined for rather long periods of time, especially during the winter months. Ordinary window glass filters out the beneficial rays of sunlight from which all animals absorb the very important and necessary vitamin D. In order to take care of these deficiencies, various kinds of glass substitutes have been perfected, which, if kept clean, allow a portion of these beneficial rays of sunshine to pass through. The use of these glass substitutes provides a practical and economical means of improving the general health and productivity of laying hens confined during the winter, and also chicks brooded during the late winter and early spring months. These glass substitutes are easy to install and are quite durable, and one advantage often overlooked is that they do not break easily like ordinary glass. (Poultry Tribune, October.)

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Section 1

September 28, 1938

"TO HOLD THIS SOIL"

Presenting the story of American soil from the earliest records to the present, the Department issued yesterday a comprehensive publication on soil conservation, "To Hold This Soil." Written in popular style by Russell Lord of the Soil Conservation Service, the new publication tells how the soils of the United States were built up over the ages, how they have washed and blown away under unwise human use and how they are now being tied down by conservation methods. Emphasizing that there is no simple cure-all of soil erosion, the publication points out how contouring, crop rotations, terracing and other measures can be blended into a single, well-rounded program. "To Hold This Soil" (Miscellaneous Publication 321) carries 123 pages of text and 39 full-page illustrations.

STATE TRADE BARRIERS

Governors of nine states agreed yesterday at Oklahoma City that states should not erect trade barriers at their boundary lines or enact laws interfering with free trade. Governor Allred of Texas advocated repeal of "narrow, provincial and stultifying legislation against our neighbors." Governor Graves of Alabama criticized existing freight rates as "discriminatory" to the Southeast and other sections and declared "labor has had to bear the brunt of all the differentials." Governor Aiken of Vermont declared the people, through "indifference and ignorance", are hastening the advent of a completely centralized governmental system in this nation. (Associated Press.)

AAA SURPLUS PURCHASES

About \$1,650,000 worth of surplus agricultural commodities were bought by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation in the two weeks ended September 21, the Department of Agriculture announced yesterday. Purchases were made in 22 states and the commodities were distributed for relief use largely in the Atlantic seaboard states, principally to persons made homeless by the recent floods and hurricane. The commodities are purchased from customs receipts earmarked for this purpose primarily to protect farm prices when borne down by surplus production. (New York Times.)

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Plans to safeguard hurricane-torn New England against forest fires, which are feared in widespread areas because of the tangle of dry fallen trees in almost all woodlands, occupied a major share of the attention of rehabilitation leaders yesterday. The Massachusetts emergency relief committee appointed a special committee to tackle the problem. The Farm Security Administration turned over its facilities for assistance. (New York Times.)

Floods Damage H. H. Bennett, Chief, Soil Conservation Service, in
Farm Land a report from Hartford, Connecticut, to the New York Times,
 says: "Torrential rains and flood waters accompanying
last week's hurricane have taken a heavy toll of rich farming land through-
out the storm-swept area of the Northeastern States. Millions of tons of
fertile soil have been washed from cultivated fields. In some localities,
raw subsoil has been exposed where the productive top soil has been en-
tirely stripped away. Hundreds of acres are scarred by fresh gullies.
Growing crops have been washed out of the earth in many places, and in
others, buried by the mud and gravel spread over bottom-land fields by
flooded streams. The Connecticut, the Merrimack and other rivers in the
affected area have been stained a deep chocolate color by the soil swept
into them by the run-off from upland fields...The storm served, however,
to test modern measures of soil defense under the most trying conditions.
Throughout the storm area methods now being used by farmers to curb soil
erosion were subjected to severe strain during five days of abnormal rain-
fall. An inspection of farms where adequate soil conservation practices
have been adopted showed negligible soil losses and crop injury in com-
parison with damage on land which had no protection from the impact of
wind and rain...On one farm some twenty miles from Hartford, erosion of
the most vicious kind had slashed out a gully more than a thousand feet
long across a field of potatoes and tobacco. More than 300 tons of top-
soil were gouged out of this gully alone. Across the road, on the same
farm, nearly 1,000 tons or approximately twenty carloads of productive
soil had been swept from the surface of a seven-acre field of tobacco.
Similar losses were observed on unprotected fields in every locality in-
spected. In sharp contrast to these heavily damaged lands, farms in the
Soil Conservation demonstration project near Rockville, Connecticut, where
landowners are participating in a cooperative demonstration of conserva-
tion practices, were either completely protected from erosion or showed
only slight losses..."

Butter "Since the government has stepped into the butter
Market market and is buying up the surplus in an effort to keep
 the market price at a higher level, there has been much
discussion as to what the future developments will be," says an editorial
in Stock & Dairy Farmer (September). "A. F. Ulrich, general manager of
the Duluth Creamery Produce Company, credits the government with raising
the price to 25½ cents as compared to 21 cents which would ordinarily be
the market price under such conditions. In a discussion as to the dis-
posal of this surplus, Mr. Ulrich suggested that it may be used for relief.
He went on to state, however, that there is a possibility that the govern-
ment may sell on the open market if it would be profitable. He felt
assured that it would be managed in such a way as not to be competing
with private interests. Meanwhile the farmers are benefiting by this
intervention..."

Lister Farm Implement News (September 22) reports that there
Mulcher has been developed a mulcher employing straw or any other
 refuse in combination with row crops planted with listers.

"The objectives primarily are to conserve moisture and to prevent soil blowing. First the field is furrowed with the lister. Then the mulching machine is pulled along the row, or behind the lister when both jobs are done at the same time, and straw that has passed through a combine or thresher is deposited at the bottom of the furrow and slightly covered at the sides. One ton of dry threshed straw will mulch from 3 to 5 acres of land. Shredded corn stalks will do as well. Used at this rate in furrows that do not have more than 3 percent slope, it is stated that the mulch will absorb a heavy rain without any runoff as well as preventing the crusting of the surface of the soil in the lister furrow. In fallowing, if the weeds get well established, the ridges can be laid down at the same time, preventing washing the seed, holding moisture and not interfering with the growth of the crop. Tests of moisture penetration have shown damp soil 32 inches deep under the mulched furrows when there were only 12 inches of moist soil alongside. The mulch seems not only to aid absorption of water but also to lessen evaporation."

New Iowa The Iowin strain of winter wheat and selections from
Grains the two undistributed oat hybrids, Victoria-Richland and
 Markton-Rainbow, again proved superior to other varieties in the 1938 yield test of the Iowa experiment station. Iowin wheat, one of the strains produced by the Iowa station, outyielded Ioturk, Kawvale, Iobred and Cheyenne varieties at six of the seven test locations in the state. At the seventh station, at Ames, it was exceeded only by Kawvale. The Kawvale variety showed the highest resistance to leaf rust and ranked at the top in strength of straw, but has not proved sufficiently winter-hardy for planting north of Ames. The two new oat hybrids, still on trial, outyielded and exceeded in quality by a wide margin the other oat varieties of Iowa 105, Iowa 103, Ingold, Columbia, Fulghum, D-67, Gopher and Rainbow. Lodging affected all of the oat strains, but the Markton-Rainbow hybrid suffered the least. (Wallaces' Farmer, Sept. 24.)

Ill. Farmer Illinois leads all other States in the number of
Cooperatives farmer cooperative associations, well over half of which
 have been organized during the past fifteen years, Donald Kirkpatrick, general counsel for the Illinois Agricultural Association, said recently. The latest figures furnished by the Farm Credit Administration shows 645 farm cooperative associations in Illinois, of which 377 are grain elevator associations, 106 of which were organized between 1915 and 1919, largely by County Farm Bureaus. (Press.)

Soils and Men The September 24 issue of Kansas Farmer contains a
 review of the 1938 Yearbook, Soils and Men, by T. A.
McNeal, editor.

Bio-Morphosis Nature (London, September 10) reports: "The first number of a new journal, Bio-Morphosis--International Journal of Morphology and Biology of Man and the Higher Vertebrates, has recently appeared. Prof. Bluntschli, of Bern, is principal editor. The editorial board includes representatives from Sweden, Poland, China, Hungary, Holland, the United States, etc....The editor points out that morphological and physiological researches have for decades been isolated from one another. The journal therefore has the very laudable aim of reconciling and exchanging the ideas of these two ways of biological investigation..."

Western Grain Shipments In the wake of a seasonal grain movement which reached the highest level in eight years, western railroads are thought to have good prospects that loadings and revenues from such commodities over the next several months will hold above 1937 levels, according to a report from the Chicago bureau of the Wall Street Journal. This is predicated upon the belief that low prices, coupled with government loans, have retarded somewhat the movement of grain from country points to central markets but that such grain will begin to move in event of higher prices or inevitably with the approach of another crop year. Since passage of the peak wheat movement grain loadings generally have tapered, especially in the last couple weeks when they have fallen below 1937 levels, according to the Association of American Railroads weekly reports. This is not the case, however, with several of the leading western roads, whose loadings of grain and of grain products are still topping 1937 levels.

Big Game Increases Most of the big game animals are making encouraging gains in numbers on the 158 National Forests, the Forest Service reports. Careful big game counts and estimates during the past winter show a total of 1,742,000 antelope, bear, deer, elk, moose, and mountain goats and bighorn sheep as compared to 1,493,000 a year ago. While this year's total game population shows an increase of 150 percent in the last 14 years, part of this gain may be the result of more accurate and intensive methods of counting and estimating. Recent additions of land to the National Forests also may account for some of the increase. "Although the National Forests contain large areas of big game range, and management of wildlife environment is giving encouraging results, the situation is by no means all rosy," says the Forest Service. "Lack of winter range available to game animals severely limits the numbers many Forests can support. Increases have been somewhat spotty, and overcrowding on some winter ranges is a problem."

Farm Fire Prevention Every home inspected for fire hazards during Fire Prevention Week, October 9 to 15, is the goal of fire prevention authorities. Farm homes are no exception, Secretary Wallace says. He points out that eight causes are responsible for almost 85 percent of farm fire losses: Defective chimneys and flues; sparks on combustible roofs; lightning; spontaneous combustion; careless use of matches, smoking; careless use of gasoline and kerosene; defective and improperly installed stoves and furnaces; faulty wiring and misuse of electric appliances.

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September 29, 1938

EXPORT GRAIN FREIGHT RATES Eastern railroads filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday new freight schedules reducing the rates on grain from the interior to Atlantic seaboard points when the shipments are destined for export. The schedules will become effective October 28. The rate is 17 1/2 cents per 100 pounds from Chicago and related points to New York and Boston, 16 cents to Baltimore and Hampton Roads and 16 cents to Philadelphia, which represents in each case a reduction of 6 cents per 100 pounds. Commodities affected are wheat, corn, oats and rye. (Associated Press.)

ARGENTINE GRAIN PRICES The Chamber of Deputies in Argentina has approved a bill empowering the government to fix minimum prices on grains or to subsidize farmers whenever it is deemed necessary "for defense of national production," it was stated yesterday in a report of the Argentine Information Bureau. Prospects for the new season's crops in Argentina are excellent, according to latest official reports. Climatic conditions have been decidedly favorable for field work in anticipation of the new corn crop season and the area sown is expected to be larger than that of a year ago, the bureau said. (New York Times.)

U.S. HIGHWAY An Ottawa report by the Canadian Press says Prime Minister Mackenzie King has agreed to the appointing of a Canadian commission to cooperate as a fact-finding body with a similar United States commission on the proposed United States highway through British Columbia and Yukon Territory to Alaska.

NEW ENGLAND CARRIER RATES In response to pleas by shippers and trucking companies, the Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday modified its order for minimum motor-carrier rates for the New England region issued on August 3. These were the first minimum rates set by the commission for an entire region for the purpose of averting rate wars. (Press.)

MERIT SYSTEM Calling the June 24th Executive Orders, which will extend the merit system in Federal Government, "not revolutionary but evolutionary," Dr. Lewis Meriam, of the Brookings Institution, last night warned that "ten years are required to effect any major reform" and counseled a slow rather than hurried movement toward desired personnel goals. (Washington Post.)

Refrigerated Barge Service A refrigerated barge service to carry Florida citrus up the Mississippi River to midwestern markets will be ready to operate within a year, L. D. Aulls, traffic manager of the Florida Citrus Exchange, said recently. The barges will be loaded at New Orleans. Aulls predicted a saving in freight rates to Florida shippers of from 15 to 33 percent to markets in the St. Louis area. The present rail rate from Lake Wales to St. Louis is 75 cents a box of fruit. By barge, Aulls said, the cost would be about 50 cents. It is proposed to operate the line as far north as Cairo, Illinois, or Evansville, Indiana. Trucks would supplement the barge shipments, Aulls declared, and would serve territory on each side of the Mississippi about 400 miles wide. From the barge terminals, trucks would haul fruit through Indiana and Illinois as far as Chicago, he predicted.

Farm-City Council The Des Moines Register (September 21) says that last year a plan of collaboration between 4-H clubs and junior chambers of commerce in Iowa was mapped out. "The idea worked so well," it says, "that a national plan of urban-rural cooperation has been accepted by the National Junior Chamber of Commerce, which has contributed to the formation of a National Farm-City Co-ordinating council. Branch councils have already been set up in 23 states. There will be three main classifications of activity--educational, service projects, and recreational...No one pretends that this new 'Iowa plan' will be a panacea for all urban-rural problems; the roots of those are largely economic. But the enlarged understanding of each other's problems that should result from this cooperation will materially affect the attitudes of each group..."

Forestry Publications In the National Historical Magazine (October), Christine Sadler reviews "Taming Our Forests" and "What Forests Give", two Forest Service unnumbered publications. She says: "Some of the best literature on life and problems in present-day America is being written by various Government agencies and is available at nominal sums. Not dry government reports, but entertainingly written and well illustrated in a modern up-to-date manner are such book-lets as 'Taming our Forests' and 'What Forests Give,' both written by Martha Bensley Bruere, Department of Agriculture, and both dedicated to the idea that a forest is more than 'land covered with trees.' Nearly one-third of the United States is forest land, one learns from Miss Bruere, who tells of the many ways in which trees are used in today's products and who makes the reader feel a sense of personal guilt at the devastation our trees have had to withstand and a responsibility for their safety in the future. From the laboratory come daily new uses for forest products. With scientific tending and an awakened outlook these products need never give out. Miss Bruere tells of the establishment of 'forest cities' in which groups of Americans can find security by becoming real foresters who will see the forest crop is a continuous one..."

Wildfowl Protection Rod and Gun (Canada) in the October issue says that the Minister of Natural Resources, Thomas A. Crerar, "has taken a long-range view of the waterfowl situation and is determined to apply federal regulations that cannot help but bear fruit in the years to come. The regulations for the protection of migratory fowl for the current season will continue the prohibition of the use of live decoys. Placing bait to attract waterfowl for the purpose of shooting will also continue to be prohibitory. Every federal assistance will be given towards the building up of the waterfowl population, so sadly reduced of late years...In this connection, the authorities in the United States are working along parallel lines, giving uniformity, under the Migratory Bird Treaty, to wildfowl preservation over the entire continent. In fact, the regulations in the republic to the south are more restrictive than the net effect of those in Canada."

Dust-Proof Gravel Roads The Prairie Farmer (September 24) in an item on dust-proof gravel roads in LaSalle County (Illinois) says in part: "Superintendent of Highways George L. Farnsworth said that 'for many years gravel roads have been maintained by what is known as the loose mulch method. Under this system, a floating cover of loose gravel is carried on the road surface and is used to fill in the holes or corrugations that develop. To keep the road in condition requires almost constant attention. A few years ago, engineers of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads discovered that certain combinations of soil road materials, when kept moist, will pack down to form a smooth, firm and dustless surface. This discovery led to the gravel road improvement method we now are using in LaSalle county.' The official explained that they use a mixture of soil materials consisting of gravel, sand and clay. To this is added a small amount of calcium chloride...It is no problem to obtain materials, as most local gravel deposits contain the necessary gravel, sand and clay...'Calcium chloride,' Mr. Farnsworth explained, 'keeps the road in a constantly moist condition, even in dry weather, enabling materials to pack down firmly. There is no dust...'..."

Farm Trend Report New measures of agricultural production and changes in the size of the agricultural industry are discussed in a report of the National Research Project of the Works Progress Administration, made public by Harry L. Hopkins, WPA Administrator. The report is entitled "Trends in Size and Production of the Aggregate Farm Enterprise, 1909-36." In general, the report points out, there has been a tendency for agricultural production to contract in the eastern areas during the past twenty-five years and to expand in the West. It shows that the western dairy area--Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan--expanded its production by 36 percent from 1909 to 1930, while the eastern dairy area--Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut--declined by about five percent. (Pennsylvania Farmer, September 24.)

Birdsfoot E. L. Worthen, New York College of Agriculture, in
Trefoil an article in American Agriculturist (September 24) on
 birdsfoot trefoil (lotus, birdsfoot lotus, lotus trefoil),
says in conclusion: "Lotus trefoil should be looked upon as a very
promising hay and pasture legume for the northeastern farmer. It is
certainly doing well in both hay fields and permanent pastures in eastern
New York. As a perennial legume for 'grass land farming' it offers
much promise. In areas to which it proves adapted, this legume should
solve the soil erosion problem, since rough land may be put down more or
less permanently to hay as well as to pasture. Unfortunately, domestic
grown seed is expensive, limitations to adaptability are not known, and
precise seeding practices seem to be essential for success. It is not
a legume which should be seeded extensively, but it is so promising that
dairy farmers might well consider giving it a trial both as a hay and
pasture plant on an acre or less of any of their new seedings."

Root Promotion Announcement is made by the Boyce Thompson Research
Methods Foundation, Inc., that four U. S. Patents relating to im-
 proving methods for inducing root-growth on plant cut-
tings have been issued to that institution. These patents are based
upon results of the research work of Drs. Zimmerman and Hitchcock on
processes for root formation obtained by the treatment of cuttings with
indoleacetic acid, indolebutyric acid, naphthaleneacetic acid, indole-
propionic acid and the salts and esters thereof. The first substance
known to induce formation of roots was carbon monoxide gas. Other
gases such as ethylene, acetylene, and propylene were also found to in-
duce root formation, but Zimmerman and Hitchcock found that the treatment
of cuttings by gases was not capable of reduction to practical operation
and turned their attention to the study of root-forming and growth-
promoting substances of a solid or liquid character. The subject mat-
ter of the patents mentioned above is based on their work along these
lines. The four patents under the above numbers apparently cover all
the chemicals that have been successfully used for root promotion on
cuttings. (Florists Exchange, September 24.)

New York The success of the U. S. Department of Agriculture
Strawberry strawberries, Dorsett and Fairfax, should prompt the
 trade to make note of the fact that the New York Experi-
ment Station, Geneva, will be distributing a new early strawberry named
Dresden next spring. It has been thoroughly tested at various places
in New York and other states and its earliness, productiveness, large
size and rich color have decided the station authorities that it is
worthy of introduction. It is a seedling of Beacon, originated at
Geneva, and Howard, being practically as early as the latter. (Florists
Exchange, September 24.)

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Section 1

September 30, 1938

WALLACE
ON AAA

"Faced with spreading unrest over runaway surpluses, and crumbling prices, the Administration yesterday opened an intensive campaign to hold farmer support for AAA policies, now under attack," reports Robert C. Albright in the Washington Post. "A plea for continuance of the program, buttressed by processing taxes and price parity guarantees, was carried to midwest wheat farmers by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace. Wallace told farm leaders at Hutchinson, Kansas, to 'fight for the program that you have.' On October 14 he will speak to corn farmers at Springfield, Illinois. Wallace warned against cost-of-production price-fixing plans advanced in the last Congress, which he said would 'soak the consumer, sink the farmer' and mean uncontrolled production. He said it would be 'preferable' to have a government monopoly of the grain business, fixing prices on domestic sales and selling surpluses abroad. Against both of these alternatives, he committed himself for the first time to a return to the invalidated processing tax as 'the surest way for wheat farmers to get their fair share of the national income.'..."

FARM PRICES,
COTTON,
VEGETABLES

A 3-point rise in the index of prices of farm products during the month ended September 15 was reported yesterday by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The index advanced to 95 percent of pre-war prices. Bureau officials added that further gains in the last two weeks probably have raised the index to the highest figure since last March. Officials pointed out, however, that prices are far below the figures at this time a year ago, when the September index was 118 percent of pre-war.

Cotton prices have fluctuated considerably during the past few weeks with a tendency to decline, Major influences, reports the bureau, include the political crisis in Europe, general reduction in mill activity in the principal foreign manufacturing countries and smaller sales than production of cotton textiles by manufacturers in this country.

The bureau also reports that the late potato crop deteriorated slightly during August. Production as of September 1 was indicated to be about 2 percent less than in 1937. The sweetpotato prospect declined also during August but the crop as of September 1 was indicated to be 6 percent larger than in 1937. Production of most of the important late truck crops this season is indicated to be substantially larger than last year.

Dirtless Farming "Don't plunge," might summarize the counsel given by the Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture, at Chicago, on the subject of "dirtless farming". Recognizing that the tank culture may have a definite place "in the growing of special high-priced crops, particularly out of season in greenhouses, in localities where good soil is not available, or where it is found too expensive to maintain highly favorable soil conditions," the Committee nevertheless strongly advises interested investigators against being rushed off their feet by glowing accounts that may be used by promoters. Profs. D. R. Hoagland and D.I. Arnon of the University of California, who made the survey for the committee, suggest: "Those who contemplate installation of the water-culture method for commercial purposes should make a preliminary test with a few tanks of solution to compare yields from soil and water culture media and to learn some of the requirements for control of the process. Without expert supervision, commercial success is unlikely." The two California scientists also warn against "highly misleading claims" made by certain purveyors for small packages of nutrient salts now available to amateurs who may contemplate experiments with the "dirtless farming" method. (Science Service.)

The Farm Magazines Scribner's (October) contains "The Farm Magazines," by Harland Manchester. He says: "Sixty years ago when P. P. Mast changed the format of his Farm and Fireside, he explained that the new large sheet would be better for lining pantry shelves. In the last decade, all the big farm magazines have undergone extensive streamlining and face lifting...Before the War, most of these magazines were homely, unpretentious trade papers printed on unglazed stock. While general periodicals followed current styles of prettification, most farm papers kept their old familiar faces. Beneath Victorian rococo mastheads, with their contented cows and old oaken buckets, there were closely packed columns telling what to do about different kinds of bugs, extolling the virtues of the centrifugal butterfat tester, and discussing the relative merits of Holsteins and Jerseys. Fiction, when it appeared, had to do with farm boys who made good, and humorous fillers were in the 'by cracky' vein. The advertisements were also close to the soil. Fertilizers, seeds, silos and chicken feed, and spanking teams of Percherons modeling the latest in harness wear. There are still local magazines of that order, but in the national field, they have gone the way of the covered bridge. The farmer of today takes from his mailbox a magazine which matches the best in style and appearance. Coated stock, four-color covers, smart stories by the gilded trained seals of fiction, alert commentary on films, radios, fashions, beauty and child-rearing, and farm articles directed, not to a plodder with a hoe, but to an agricultural businessman. The back-cover cigarette ads are the same as those which beam on Manhattan newsstands; there are the same tooth-paste and soap ads; and even the announcements of tractors and oil stoves sparkle with modernity...the farm magazines have staged a comeback which parallels the comeback of the farmer himself."

Farm Exports Increase

For over a year farm products exports from the United States have been rising and imports have been falling.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that in the twelve months ended June 30, the value of farm products exports from the United States increased \$158,000,000 or 22 percent over the value of farm products exports in the previous twelve months. The value of imports of commodities which compete with farm products produced in this country decreased 32 percent. These changes in foreign trade in agricultural products are attributed chiefly to two major factors--abundant harvests last year and the drop in industrial activity in this country. Both factors operated to decrease imports of farm products. Increased supplies after the years of drought shortage meant less need for goods produced outside the United States and more products available for shipment abroad. The decline in industrial activity reduced consumer incomes and consumer buying power and meant lessened demand from workers and from factories for imported as well as domestic raw materials. The value of United States exports of farm commodities during the fiscal year 1937-38 was the largest in seven years. (Press.)

County Agents and the AAA

"County agents are being criticised by some farmers because they are enforcing provisions of the agricultural adjustment act," says an editorial in the Columbia, South Carolina, State (September 23). "The county agents are not in any way responsible for the provisions in the law. They are among its administrators, and as such must help put the act into operation, without favoritism. This they are trying to do...The old function of the county agents was to serve as instructors and advisers to farmers. This was a great function, and well performed in South Carolina. The State regrets the agents have often been compelled by the press of new duties under the new national agricultural policy, to abandon to some degree their former activities. But the Department of Agriculture was forced to use the available officials to administer the AAA, or attempt an almost impossible task of setting up a new administrative agency. County agents, long in the field, and generally respected, were better qualified to administer the act than any new officials could have been. They were, therefore, selected for the difficult task of directing operations of the AAA...."

Commuting Farmers

The Nashville Banner (September 21) comments editorially on part-time farming, and says: "...The United States Department of Agriculture calls attention to the new agricultural innovations, the 'suitcase farmer' and the 'sidewalk farmer.' The former is the one who 'camps' temporarily during the busy season on the farm itself. The latter is the one who dwells in town and commutes to his work...Noting further the migration from farm to town, the department puts the number of such persons deserting the farm at 1,160,000 for last year. However, it was explained, many of these have become commuting farmers, going back and forth during the busy seasons... Farm life, for many reasons, is far more popular than it was twenty years ago. Improvements of many sorts, reducing the isolation and lack of modern facilities, which are the principal complaints, have broken down many prejudices and made of the bucolic life a far more ideal existence. These numerous factors, plus the depression, caused an influx of farm population, only gradually diminished at the present time."

International Organizations "An English edition of the Handbook of International Organizations has now been issued by the Secretariat of the League of Nations," says Nature (London, September 17). "This volume of nearly 500 pages gives the particulars of nearly 760 international organizations, including addresses, names of officers, notes on finance, objects and activities. International bureaus and private associations and federations in so far as they have international objects and are not run for profit are included..."

"Thomomys the Engineer" Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, writes in American Forests (October) on "Thomomys the Engineer." He says in part: "Thomomys (pocket gopher) is accused, and sometimes with good reason, of both the direct and indirect destruction of thousands of acres of choice mountain meadows, valuable alike for livestock and game. To my mind, this may be the most serious of all the crimes charged to Thomomys...How can a tiny animal such as a pocket gopher affect the value of these timber lands? The answer is simple, and can be answered in one word--erosion. Trees cannot be grown where there is no soil, and there are areas in the western mountains absolutely denuded of soil as a result of pocket gopher activities. Thomomys, in building his tunnels in the light soils of some of these mountains, often opens the way for an erosion channel to start. Much of the rainfall of these regions is in the form of heavy thunder showers, which quickly enlarge a gully once started, and the entire slope is washed down the mountainside, leaving bare rock where once was good pasture land. As long as the vegetative cover is present, its roots hold the soil there, but once these roots are broken and destroyed, the thin layer of soil is soon gone. Many of these meadows become so honey-combed by the burrows of the little engineer that a man breaks through at every other step. So does a deer, an elk, a cow, or a sheep, perhaps hastening somewhat the erosion process, but one which was inevitable anyhow, because of the presence of Thomomys. Can they be stopped? Most assuredly. Long years of experience in handling rodent problems in the western states have developed a marvelous technique. Pocket gophers could be removed from the best of these meadows for from twelve to sixteen cents an acre."

World Seed Regulations The Gardeners' Chronicle (London, September 17) reports that at the Twelfth International Horticultural Congress W. J. Franck, of Wageningen, the Netherlands, in a report on the promotion of seed growing and seed exchange by international agreements, "moved that the Congress lay special emphasis on the importance of uniform methods of purity analysis in international traffic in seeds. In particular, the Congress would welcome an increased use of the international certificates which should accompany all seeds in international trade...Finally, the international certificate should contain a statement of moisture content. It will be of increasing importance to seed-exporting countries to reach an agreement as to a uniform guarantee system recognized throughout the world. Such an agreement would greatly simplify international commerce in seeds and would also represent an aid to seed growers in the various countries..."

